

Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 210401Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

SECSTATE WASHDC 3892

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0846

E,65. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, IN, SO

SUBJECT: FORMER PM EGAL RUMORED NEXT SOMALI ENVOY TO INDIA

1. RELIABLE FSL SOURCE SAYS FORMER PRIME MINISTER MOHAMED IBRAHIM EGAL HAS ACCEPTED AMBASSADORIAL POST IN NEW DELHI. EGAL, RELEASED FROM PRISON LAST OCTOBER AFTER SIX YEARS' INCARCERATION, WILL REPORTEDLY TAKE UP POST EARLY SUMMER.

2. EGAL, WE ARE TOLD, NMAS RELUCTANT TAKE POST FOR FEAR HE APPEAR LEND HIS SUPPORT TO SIAD REGIME PERSONALITIES AND POLICIES HE FINDS DISTASTEFUL. HE APPARENTLY SWAYED BY FRIENDS WHO POINTED OUT THAT VIRTUAL HOUSE ARREST HE UNDER SINCE RELEASE ALMOST SAME AS PRISON AND, IF HE OUT OF COUNTRY, WOULD AT LEAST BE ABLE CONTACT OLD FRIENDS ABROAD (PRESUMABLY IN EFFORT ORGANIZE POLITICAL COMEBACK SHOULD PRESENT GSDR FAULTER).

3. GSDR FOR ITS PART HAPPY TO GET RID OF EGAL, A FIGURE WHO RETAINS GENUINE POPULARITY AMONG MORE CONSERVATIVE LAY AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS. IT DOUBTFUL THAT ONCE EGAL LEAVES SOMALIA HE WILL BE ALLOWED BACK, GSDR VIEWING NEW DELHI POST AS HIS FIRST STEP IN PERMANENT EXILE.
LOUGHRAN

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